

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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A. PAINTAL†, India  
B. SALTIN, Denmark  
A. SEFTON, Australia

## IUPS COUNCIL MEETING

29 – 31 March 2005

Hilton Gaslamp Hotel : Marina Room  
San Diego, CA

Present: A. Cowley, A. Kaneko, I. Schulz, J. Neill, O. Petersen, H. Atwood, P. Balaban, Y. Earm, C. Hidalgo, T. Macknight, D. Oyebola, A. Sefton, S. Orsoni.

Excused: B. Saltin

The meeting was called to order on 29 March at 13:35.

**A.** The minutes of the 2003 IUPS Council meeting were approved.

### **B. Reports of the Officers**

- 1. Report of the President:** A. Cowley presented the written report which had been sent to the delegates noting that it was time to think about Long Range Planning. The San Diego congress will be a test of how well a congress can function under the umbrella of an organization such as FASEB. The reorganization of the commissions has worked reasonably well, and the International Scientific Program Committee was congratulated on its outstanding results. He expressed his sincere thanks to Ole Petersen for his valuable assistance in all his efforts and his thanks in general for having had the honor of serving as President these past four years.
- 2. Report of the Treasurer:** J. Neill presented a report of the income and expenses for the period 2001-2004. The revenue from dues increased considerably in the past year following an effort to collect those in arrears with approximately 90% having now been paid. Thanks were expressed to P. Balaban for his assistance with the Russian dues. Those that remain unpaid are for the most part from developing countries. The major expense is that of the salary for the Executive Secretary, paid in Euros, which has become more expensive in US dollars because of the worsening exchange rate. The Paris office was audited for the first time in 2004 and the accounts found to be correct. The balance on the account has finally reached a point of some comfort. There are endowments for several Lectureships, and the amounts are growing more rapidly than the cash balance since they can be invested for longer periods of time and at a higher rate of return. T. Macknight suggested that perhaps there are other uses for some of the funds in the Wallace Fenn Fund in addition to the Wallace Fenn Lecture. However, all such endowments must continue to be self-sustaining. The President expressed his thanks to J. Neill. The report was accepted.

A recommendation was made that the IUPS try to maintain a cash balance of approximately two years expenses, but perhaps that is more than is necessary. The fixed revenue based on dues is relatively low, so the major risk is not to receive any input from the quadrennial congresses. In 2005 and 2009 the amount is guaranteed in the contract, but it is difficult to know for the future. Perhaps the cash reserve should be equivalent to the previous year's dues revenue allowing the remainder to be invested on a more long term basis.

The 2% annual increase in dues approved by the 2001 General Assembly was not implemented. Thus it was suggested to propose to the General Assembly a substantial increase in 2006 and 2% thereafter.

Action: Propose to General Assembly a 5% increase in dues in 2006 and with a 2% increase in subsequent years.

3. Report of the Secretary General: O. Petersen noted the passing of the Council Member Autar Paintal (India) and the former Council Member John Young (Australia). He referred to the written report sent to the General Assembly delegates. As an experiment, there will be an IUPS Exhibition Stand at EB for three days during the congress. One item that needed to be stressed was the problem of free access to the Congress. Difficulties with regard to obtaining US visas had been encountered by people from several countries. He described in detail those of one invited speaker who eventually was unable to attend, because the US Embassy in London refused to issue a visa in time in spite of instructions to do so from the US State Department. Aki Kaneko noted that such problems are not foreseen for Japan. O. Petersen extended his warm thanks to A. Cowley for a job well done and the pleasure of working with him.

### C. Regular Business of the Council

#### 1. Regional Activity

- FAOPS: A. Kaneko reported on their ongoing activities. The next congress will take place in 2006 in Seoul. They have provided support to regional workshops and symposia, and A. Sefton remarked on their high quality. Their newsletter is published electronically on the website ([www.adinstruments.com/FAOPS](http://www.adinstruments.com/FAOPS)). China and India are important and active members.

- FEPS: O. Petersen reported that recently an important decision was made to hold their congress annually in conjunction with the meeting of a national member. In 2005 it will be with The Physiological Society in Bristol, in 2006 in Munich and in 2007 in Bratislava. The lack of a journal means less revenue. However an agreement has very recently been made with the Scandinavian Physiological Society to make Acta Physiologica Scandinavica the official FEPS journal. 'Scandinavica' will therefore be dropped. Annual dues are charged to national members but recently weighted by both the number of members and the relative national wealth. FEPS has recently offered to cooperate with any European society to host the 2013 Congress. The UK Physiological Society had indicated willingness to organize a future IUPS Congress in cooperation with FEPS, but it was not clear if either the Austrian or Czech society wished to do so.

-ALACF: no news has been received.

Action: C. Hidalgo is to be copied on any correspondence with them.

-AAPS: T. Macknight reported on the meeting held in Morocco in 2004 saying it was well organized, but the African countries were not well represented. In order to work with Africa it will be necessary to work with this organization since there are so few African physiological societies. D. Oyebola noted that the AAPS does not really represent Africa saying that Nigeria had not been informed of their meeting.

Action: An "African initiative" is to be proposed and organized by D. Oyebola, A. Sefton and T. Macknight.

2. Nominating Committee: A. Cowley chaired the committee composed of S. Chien, P. Hunter, E. Weibel, D. Noble and G. DiBona. The proposed slate was sent to all Adhering Bodies but no other suggestions were received. They have made a concerted effort to roll over half of the current members and to have a good representation of geographical regions and fields of science.

3. Admissions Committee, A. Macknight, Chair, noted that two new members will be proposed as Adhering Bodies: the Sociedad Argentina de Fisiologia and the Serbian Physiological Society.

He has compared our membership with those of IBRO and IUPHAR found they are similar except with regard to corporate members. We might try to be more active with regard to this group, since at present there is little chance that more countries will join. We need to work with companies to try to find ways to achieve interactive benefits. A. Sefton suggested that better collaborative efforts should be formed with IBRO. It was noted that we would probably have more success with companies to support a specific African project than IUPS in general. A similar effort also needs to be undertaken in South America.

4. Long Range Planning Committee: The formation of this committee was discussed by the ExCo in 2004 as a way to enlarge the activities of the IUPS, and it was recognized that the first step was to define our needs. D. Noble was proposed as a possible chair with other names suggested as members, however there had so far been no further follow-up. A. Kaneko was concerned about whether such a long standing committee should provide suggestions that the council felt obliged to follow, and that it would perhaps be better instead to have an ad hoc committee. C. Hidalgo noted that it is important for such a committee to have ties to regional organizations and “blue ribbon” think tanks. This will be announced to the General Assembly but without specifics.
5. Development Committee: The idea was to have this named later to identify sources of financial support for new activities. But perhaps it would be better to do it on a project by project basis handled by the council.

The meeting was suspended at 17:20.

**Wednesday 30 March:** The meeting was called to order at 8:30.

#### **D. XXXVI International Congress, 2005, San Diego.**

S. Chien, M. Frank and W. Boron, representing the Organizing Committee, reported on the congress. The US National Committee represents six societies, and appreciation was noted for the major role played by the American Physiological Society (APS). Also new is having the congress in conjunction with the Experimental Biology Meeting which will allow members of the seven member participating societies to also attend. The Mayor of the city of San Diego proclaimed 31 March to be IUPS Day.

The 15 “tracks” in the scientific program is a new item this time which will allow participants to follow a given theme throughout the congress.

Finances: the registration fee was set very low in order to draw more participants. As of 22 March 3885 had registered in the Physiology section with 3238 abstracts submitted, but many on site registrations are expected. At the time of the meeting, there was a shortfall of over \$500,000, but it was difficult to know the final outcome until after the meeting. Any loss will be underwritten by the APS.

Eleven Satellite Symposia will take place in the days preceding and following the congress.

The travel award program will spend \$200,000, of which \$25,000 came from the IUPS, to support 167 awards to people from 50 countries. Over 400 applications were received.

Because of activists there will be increased security costs and the convention center will be on “lock down” with no one allowed to enter without a badge. An effort will be made to draw the press into the convention center rather than speaking with them in front of any crowds, and only persons from the US will act as spokespersons.

#### **E. XXXVII International Congress, 2009: Japan Science Council**

Y. Kurachi, chair of the Local Organizing Committee, made the presentation noting that the congress will take place in Kyoto, Japan, 27 July to 1 August 2009 at the Congress Center. The main theme of the congress will be “Function of Life: Elements and Integration” and focus on contemporary research on fundamental elements and the new direction of integrative physiology.

The new President of The Japanese Physiological Society will be elected at the Annual Meeting of The Society in Sendai in May at which time the contract will be signed with IUPS. The International Scientific Program Committee should be named as soon as possible as they wish to have the first meeting of the committee in late 2005 or early 2006. A. Cowley noted that the IUPS website will again be available for

suggestions for the program. Early registration is planned to \$315 (\$90 for students). Housing accommodations will be available at all prices, including student housing, and easily accessible via the subway system. Japan Convention Services has been working on the practical organization of the congress.

#### **F. XXXVII International Congress, 2013.** Invitations to host congress

Four invitations to host the congress, which will be presented to the General Assembly, were made individually to Council followed by questions and answers.

Austria: Helmut Hinghofer-Szalkay presented the official invitation from the Austrian Physiological Society with the theme “Leading Life Sciences: From Proteomics to Biospherics”. It is planned to take place in the Austrian Center in Vienna, 25 – 30 August. The registration fee is planned to be 400 Euros (\$520), and 1600 participants are required to break even. Financial guaranties will be provided by the Austrian Physiological Society, local political partners and companies which will form a consortium. Approximately 2000 are expected from Central Europe alone. Good hotel accommodations at all prices are available. O. Petersen noted that no mention was made of FEPS in their organization and was informed that so far this had not been done, but that they plan to contact them and have an active interaction. He also remarked that the break even point would seem to depend on how much support will be given to invited speakers and was assured that they had every intention to provide sufficient amounts. “Biospherics” was defined as the “highest level of life sciences”. A. Kaneko asked how they planned to attract participants in the satellite symposia to attend the main congress and noted that the early registration fee seems very high. He also asked about the physiological group in Austria and whether it would be only Austrian or more pan European. The reply was that it was felt the fee was normal and that the collateral costs on site were expensive. As for the consortium while interest has been shown nothing has been established as yet. The Austrians need to create the sparks and built up a central European network to work together for the next eight years.

China: Tai Yao presented the invitation from the Association for Physiological Sciences (CAPS) / the Chinese Associate of Science and Technology (CAST) to host a congress at the Beijing International Convention Center with a theme of “Translational research and integrative physiology” on 6 – 11 May 2013. He noted that there is increased activity in China and in the IUPS history of 35 congresses to date only two have been in Asia. He pointed out a number of favorable conditions in Beijing: it is the capital, the Olympics will take place there soon, and the infrastructure is excellent. The registration fee would be about \$250 with 3500 participants expected, 800 from China. When asked why so few from China, the reply was that the country is still developing and does not yet have a high number of scientists. The CAPS, which is a non-governmental body, will be responsible financially, and a local and program committee will be established including members from Taipei and Hong Kong. It was noted that the government would provide support for the congress both politically and financially. The registration fee would provide the majority of their revenue, but support would also be provided by government and company sponsorship. Support for invited speakers will depend to a large extent on the companies that join their organization. 5% of the budget will be sponsoring young and third world investigators. 25% of any net profit would be given to the IUPS. A. Cowley asked if the government would assume any loss, and was told that most likely it would but that such an agreement had not yet been made. Accommodations will not be very expensive with student accommodations easily available. As to whether FAOPS would be involved, the reply was if the bid was accepted they would certainly be contacted. Having English as the congress language should not prove a problem with the younger scientists as most are already comfortable with the language.

#### Czech Republic:

J. Mares, J. Palecek and I. Miksa presented the invitation from the Czech Physiological Society, Czech Medical Association and the Institute of Physiology to host the congress in June or July 2013 at the Congress Center of Prague. The theme would be “From basic research to therapeutic principles”. A registration fee of 400 Euros (\$520) is expected with between 2000 and 3000 participants. The local society has 300 members and would combine their efforts with other neighboring societies. It is hoped to have the congress in conjunction with their annual meeting and to attract a large number of clinicians although as noted by T. Macknight clinicians are difficult to attract. The idea is to have satellite symposia

that interest both clinicians and pharmaceutical companies. In case of a deficit the Czech Physiological Society and the Czech Medical Association have made a guarantee of 100,000€, and there also will be insurance. O. Petersen asked again if contact had been made with FEPS and was informed that it was clear that it would be involved. Currently travel and accommodation expenses for 50 speakers are included in the budget.

United Kingdom: D. Eisner and A. North presented the invitation from The Physiological Society (UK) to host the congress at the International Convention Center in Birmingham from 7 – 12 July 2013. The theme would be “Back to the future” and is expected to attract at least 3500 participants. The registration fee would be \$380 with \$95 for students.

New ideas are to have integrative symposia some of which will present new technologies and some will be open to the public to allow them to better understand physiology. The posters are meant to be a major part of the meeting. A representative from FEPS will be on the organizing committee. Y. Earm asked what is to be done about the strong antivivisectionist movement in the UK, and was told the government is currently taking a much stronger position than elsewhere in the world. A. Kaneko raised the question about satellite symposia and was informed that they will be encouraged to be integrated into the main meeting. O. Petersen was assured that it would probably not be a problem for the society to guarantee \$100,000 to the IUPS. P. Balaban, however, reminded everyone that even with 3000 participants in Glasgow there was a large loss, and A. Sefton remarked that the scientific professionalism needs to be improved over that meeting as well.

After all the invitations had been presented, there was an open discussion by the members of Council.

#### Austria

Vienna a beautiful city	Too much importance on Satellites
Technology emphasis	Scientific program not well developed
Good congress center	No FEPS commitment
Affiliations with other societies	\$520 too high

#### China

Highly motivated	Not easy to get around Beijing
Well organized	Lacked too much detail in presentation
Infrastructure would be good after Olympics	Based too much on trust
\$250 registration fee	Geographical issue after Japan

#### Czech

Well experienced in Prague	Clinical people won't be interested
Young physiologists well implicated	No FEPS commitment
Presentation very good	Similar weakness as Vienna
The city not expensive	Registration too high

#### UK

Good presentation	Short memory to 1993 in Glasgow
Good experience	Last one not well run
Registration on \$350	Expensive to get to UK
100,000€ guarantee provides safety	Should 3 <sup>rd</sup> richest member be invited

### G. Publications

1. IUPS website: A. Cowley offered to continue to house the website in his lab, but all changes will be the responsibility of the new council. The ISPC for San Diego was handled very successfully on IUPS site with a link to the congress site, and it has been suggested to do so for Kyoto.

Newsletter, O. Petersen will continue to edit it and make an effort to have it appear at least twice a year, but he would appreciate receiving more in the way of contributions in order to increase the frequency.

Action: National and Regional Members should be contacted to make contributions – both to the Newsletter and to the website.

2. *Physiology*: The list of persons to receive free subscriptions to *Physiology* needs to be reviewed and a more precise definition of who may benefit should be established. The IUPS currently provides \$15,000 annually to the APS to support this journal as well as paying the costs of the more than 100 free subscriptions currently on the list.

Action: S. Orsoni to consult the new Council for ideas and send them the list.

## H. Relations with international organizations

ICSU: The question again arose as to whether support in the way of dues (currently \$4682 but to be increased and billed in Euros) should be continued when nothing seems to be obtained in return. Both A. Sefton and P. Hunter have submitted several excellent grant applications but none were accepted. In the past “freedom of access” and the universality of sciences (ICSU Statute 5) have been important to us, and more recently with reference to the Israeli problem in 2002. Perhaps being a member of ICSU would prove useful in our new African initiative. It was suggested that a letter be sent to ICSU demanding changes in the way the organization operates. In any case, the dues will be paid for 2005 (in US\$).

Action: S.Orsoni and A. Sefton will prepare a letter of complaint outlining why the IUPS may consider resigning and in particular asking for better clarification of the grant program.

Other scientific Unions: We belong to several such as IUPhar and pay dues to some, but exactly for what purpose needs to be better clarified.

ICLAS: Contact seems to have dried up, so we need to establish who is to be our contact person so as to obtain their reports which could prove useful to the Ethics Committee.

Action: S. Orsoni (A. Kaneko?) to try to reestablish contact with ICLAS, and clarify the situation with the other Unions

## I. Any other business

The question of support for the Invited Lectures should be better defined. In San Diego, it appears the following amounts were offered, but a more precise definition may be required:

Wallace Fenn Lecture	\$2000 and all expenses financed by Fenn Fund
Ernst Knobil Lecture	\$2000 and all expenses financed by Knobil Fund
Robert Pitts Lecture	amount unknown - financed by the Renal Commission, but clarification is needed
August Krogh Lecture	amount unknown – supported by the Scandinavian Physiological Society in conjunction with the APS in San Diego.

Feng Lecture – might be established in future using Feng Fund for a congress lecture

The suggestion was also made that perhaps some of these Fund monies could be used to finance activities other than invited lectures at the Congress.

The meeting was suspended at 16:30

**Thursday 31 March**

**H. Committees and Commissions**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 with the members of Council present along with M. Gordon, P. Hansen, D. Noble; P. Hunter, A. Popel, and E. Weibel.

A. Cowley welcomed all present and made introductions.

1. Archives: These documents are held at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. A large number were added in late 2004 from the Secretariat in Paris. E. Weibel noted that he has numerous documents from the 1997 congress that he will provide.

Action: P. DeWeer is to be contacted to confirm his willingness to continue to be responsible.

2. Ethics Committee: E. Weibel, chair, reported that the committee was revived in 2001 with the CIOMS guidelines being used to establish a mandate. It currently has a dozen members from around the world although it was difficult to get it moving with some members rather inactive. During the congress it will sponsor the Randall Lecture on Ethics in Physiology (R. Williamson) as well as a panel discussion. E. Weibel has asked to be relieved of his responsibility as chair and suggested that a member of the committee, R. Williamson (Melbourne), replace him. A. Cowley thanked him for all his efforts.

3. Education Committee: A. Sefton and P. Hansen, co-chairs, noted that a strong presence in San Diego is in large part due to the active education group in the APS. Over the past four years the committee has been involved in a number of small workshops in various countries having found that the way to be most effective is to send a small group to participate. The Inverness (1993) workbook is to be updated and made available online. A National Science Foundation grant (\$100,000) has been made available, and two American Principal Investigators are on the team. Portions of the book will be made available as they are ready. The one remaining problem is language since Spanish and French speaking parts of the world are reluctant to use English. It will be an open document and not copyrighted.

It was noted that IBRO has particularly good education information on their website, and a better link with them needs to be established. Currently invertebrate and human studies are included but not live animal experiments. The Ethics committee will be consulted, and council will be asked to decide exactly what to use – “animals can’t give informed consent”.

4. Physiome Committee: P. Hunter and A. Popel, co-chairs, reported that there are currently 13 members. They have a number systems available (heart & circulatory, lung, muscular, skeletal) and are aiming to have all 12 organ systems on line before long. They received funds from the Wellcome Trust for the heart project for a 5 year period, and will soon apply for a second grant.

5. Commissions: The reorganization of the commissions four years ago has in general been quite successful although some changes now are required. The following reports were provided:

I. Locomotion: B. Saltin, chair. No report was available.

II. Circulation: D. Noble, chair. The written report was presented.

III. Endocrinology, J. Neill, chair, noted that the field would be reasonably well covered at the congress.

M. Gordon noted that comparative endocrinology is a growing field and that the two commissions should work together. J. Neill has asked not to continue as chair.

IV. Senses: A. Kaneko, chair, noted that some sections have not been very active because of being represented elsewhere. However, the field is important, and he suggested that it be merged with Commission VI, Neural Control.

V. Secretion & Absorption: I. Schulz, chair, reported that all four sections have been relatively active. She noted however that perhaps “Food & Water” would be better if combined with “Gastroenterology”, but it is difficult to decide where it really belongs.

VI. Neural Control, H. Atwood, chair reported that here too some sections had little activity but that others were quite active, and fully agreed with the suggestion of merging the two commissions (IV and VI). A move was proposed and seconded that the two be merged into one. Approved by council.

VII. Comparative: M. Gordon, chair, regrets the passing of R. Baudinette as head of the section on Ecology & Evolution. The other chairs will meet while in San Diego and have been very active. He would like to appoint a vice-chair so as to plan for the future. A. Cowley suggested that the interactions with Genomics become more active.

VIII. Genomics: Unfortunately E. Rubin, chair, has been totally inactive and thus the commission has had no movement over the past four years. A. Cowley suggested that Curt Sigmund be invited to become chair.

It was noted that the topic of Molecular and Cellular Physiology seems to be lacking from those covered by the commissions. O. Petersen recommended that a new Commission VI be formed on this topic. Seconded and approved by council.

Action: The General Assembly will be asked to approve the two changes in commissions but also to give the new council power concerning restructuring.

7. It was suggested the composition of council should be restructured so as not to be such an ad hoc process. Rather it should be more of a matrix, or even several, to be sure all fields are covered.

Action: P. Hunter to prepare a white paper with the assistance of P. Hansen, M. Gordon, A. Cowley and E. Weibel to present to the next Council Meeting.

A. Macknight expressed his gratitude to A. Cowley for his imaginative leadership and all his efforts during his term as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Orsoni  
Executive Secretary